



BADGER & MANLEY, Publishers and Proprietors.

Vol. XLIX.

Maine Farmer.

The State College Farm.

We have never devoted much space to the Agricultural College farm, nor do we propose to now, but in the defense of the Agricultural committee, which we published last week, in the effort to show how the farm has been mismanaged, the facts are so distorted that we find it incumbent on us inasmuch as the arrangement of the management of the farm was drawn out by our critics on the action of the "committee in relation to agricultural matters, to come in a certain degree to its defense. We do not claim this farm has answered all the great purposes which were originally intended when the college was founded, but it is clearly entitled to proper credit for what it has done. As we understand it, this farm was to answer a two-fold purpose, viz.: an experiment farm for the general improvement of agriculture in the State, and to afford the students an opportunity of combining practice with theory by working upon the farm for a fair compensation, which would aid them in paying their college expenses. To my judgment students this has been of great benefit.

The Packing Business.

Considerable excitement was created in England lately, by a report that the hog market had broken out and was raging among American swine, but it is quickly subsided by the representation of the proper authorities that there was no truth in it.

While this was going on, and at the same time farm experiments were in progress, the farm did not pay. Then came a demand from the Legislature that the farm should be carried on for profit; a change of farm superintendents was made and two years ago the farm paid its expenses and more. Last year was an exceptionally dry one and the crops were light. We were in the farm about the middle of July and it appeared almost like a desert. We found women and spoke of it, that a Legislative committee which demanded results without regard to circumstances, could make trouble for the college. It appears, though, that the latter part of the season was more favorable and that the farm, minor permanent improvements, did pay expenses and more, a result which under the circumstances ought to be highly satisfactory.

According to the report of the farm superintendent, the receipts by the superintendent of the farm for the year 1880, were \$3,667.68 and the expenditures \$3,630.17, of which \$217.68 were for fertilizers, only one-third of which should be charged to the business, and on being interrogated, he gave the MAINE FARMER as his authority in part for the statement. Thereupon the telegraph and press took up the subject and the name of this paper travelled with the speed of thought from ocean to ocean and from continent to continent, and on the following morning the people in all civilized lands, while they sipped their coffee, read from the morning journals the abominations of American canned meats. The MAINE FARMER was never so honored before. Its name appeared and its authority was quoted in French, German and Italian on the Continent, in Slavie in Russia, in India and Persia and in the East, in Chinese and Japanese, and in the Turkish tongue at Constantinople, Egypt and in the Holy Land. The article in this paper which so disturbed the equilibrium of mankind and caused so near breaking of the peace of the nations, was a mere item from a correspondent which appeared in our notes and queries sometime last fall and of which the following is a copy:

"I want to say a word about canned meat, for a warning to those that use it. The businesses of canning have been quite expensive and canning factories have sprung up in a good many places and are doing a large business. And there are a great many that are eating this canned meat and are not aware of what kind of meat you are eating and when you understand it, I think you will say farewells to canned meat. There were but two or three years ago, when they call 'canneries,' which consist of old sheep, no matter how much diseased; anything that could stand alone such as were so poor that the farmers could not eat them. Also old dried mutton and old bids with the bones in their jaws; anything does to can. I was at the village the other day and saw a large amount of these old sheep's carcasses that were being sold to the canning factories. They were put up in cans for hams to eat; and in fact I think it dangerous for any one to eat such meat; I think there ought to be a stop put to such works."

This item was received and inserted as hundreds of others are, without a word of editorial comment, and had entirely passed from mind when it was recalled by a threatened closing of American ports and an embargo on our shipping.

But leviety aside, we are aware that the canning meat business is a great and important American industry, one in which our State is much interested, and we would not willingly do anything to injure it when the same is honestly conducted, but we were acquainted with every moment of its history, they would have seen an account of it. Nitrogen is the most expensive of all our fertilizers, its market value being 25 cents per pound. Seventy-two pounds have been required as the requisite amount of nitrogen for an acre of corn, and the Stockbridge corn fertilizers used by many are thus in part made up. The experiments at the College Farm last season go to show that one third of this amount of nitrogen or twenty-four pounds to the acre, will produce equally as good results as twenty-two pounds, which practically saves twelve dollars per acre in the cost of fertilizers. It is of no importance to the farmer who uses commercial fertilizers to know this.

We admit that the farm experiments have not been what they ought, but the reason is that former legislatures, like the committee of the present one, have claimed that "this large and excellent farm" should be carried on for profit. Isn't it a novelty for the class described by our correspondent that if not what are they? We do not suppose the canning process improves the quality of meat, and it would follow that there is a certain class of animals which are especially sought after by those engaged in the packing business, if not, why and whence the term? They may not be the class described by our correspondent but if not what are they? If it is of no importance to the farmer who uses commercial fertilizers to know this?

We have said that the possibilities of fraud in this business are great and the frailties of human nature are well known.

An honest man would conduct this business as he would any other, and so would a dishonest one.

He expressed it as a loathsome sight to him to see all the nostrils, and yet these carcasses were directed to a packing establishment considerably to the east of Portland. These animals, from the description given, must have grown poor from old age, or starvation, or both, and were unfit for human food, canned or uncooked; they can be tried here for all our farmers at once and save the expense of individual experiments. This is the legitimate function of a State farm and it can have no other, and what we need is a Legislative committee that can comprehend this and not take the narrow view that the State has accepted three hundred acres of land for the purpose of going into general farming.

The committee tells the farmers of Maine that they have been taxed their proportion of nearly two hundred thousand dollars for the State College, but they neglect to say that more than two-thirds of it has been expended for buildings, which was one of the conditions upon which the grant of land was made to the State by Congress. More buildings are needed, but the legislative committee refused to recommend an appropriation for that purpose, and the Legislature neglected to make it. Is not this a violation of the contract? The State has paid \$150,000 to establish this Industrial College, a sum too large to be thrown away or left to take care of itself. If its management is not what it ought to be, it is within the province of the Legislature to correct it; if the plan which it is pursuing

is not the best, the State can adopt one that is. The school was founded for the benefit of the farmers and mechanics of Maine and the management that will best serve their interests is the one to be adopted. The college is young and great results have not yet been achieved, nor could they reasonably be expected.

We are not sure that the course of study adopted in the college, is the best under the circumstances, nor is it our present purpose to discuss it. It is the farm and its management which we are now considering, and we have only to add that in connection therewith, we should have a well equipped Experiment Station for the analysis of soils, peats, mucks, commercial and other manures, for testing seeds, for feeding domestic animals, and for many other things in which our farmers need to be instructed. Results here reached should, in some manner, be spread among the farmers all over the State; it would then be an agricultural college indeed, and its pupils would be numbered in tens of thousands.

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Experiments with Ensilage.

Professor Geo. H. Cook of New Brunswick, director of the New Jersey Experiment Station, says in Bulletin No. II the results of an experiment with ensilage. The cows were fed for a period of twenty-eight days each on a ration composed of clover, wheat-straw, brewers' grains, turnips and cotton seed meal that furnished, for each 1,000 pounds of live weight, of digestible protein, fat and carbohydrates .25, .25 and 12.5 pounds respectively. Two other cows were fed on this ration for the first twenty-eight days; in the next period 100 pounds of ensilage was substituted for forty pounds of turnips, giving the same total of digestible protein, but of fat and carbohydrates .3 and 14.0 pounds respectively. For the next five weeks this second pair of cows was fed on a ration consisting of 120 pounds of ensilage and five pounds of cotton seed meal for each animal, containing the same amount of digestible nutrients as the ration of the first twenty-eight days. The cost of making and boxing all ready for shipment, is one and three-fourth cents per pound, this to include all charges. Mr. Francis Barnes will have charge and his motto is "Second to None."

Prof. Henry Tanner, an eminent English authority has published through Macmillan and Company a little volume entitled First Principles of Agriculture, which should be in the yield of milk on the ensilage ration. The ensilage butter was, however, unusually fine in flavor and color.²⁷

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The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Poetry.

The Little White-Haired Mother.

With sudden gushes a mighty voice
Screams from the corner of the tent;
Helpless before the people's choice,
This old woman falls at bent:
Her first, before all others,
A patient little "white-haired mother."

The day has come; the hour draws near;
Lo! she comes, her hair is bare,
Whom brings this ruler over with her,
From the land of the living?
He brings his "white-haired mother."

The glittering emblems of kings
Are standing in their state;
These are the signs of the thrones;
They and their kingdoms wait,
With the world's wealth, to bequeath,
The ruler gives his "white-haired mother."

At sea, states may grow and men may gain,
And power and riches swift increase;
But the world's wealth is to bequeath,
His right for purity and peace,
Comes through its husbands, daughters, brothers,
At last on patient "white-haired mothers."

Our Story Teller.

FARMER TUBE'S REVENGE.

CHAPTER I.

"Well, wife, what are you going to give us for dinner?" asked Farmer Tubbs of his wife, as he sat down to his meal in the Wiscasset chair after a very substantial breakfast, the last traces of which he was just removing from his full lips with the back of his hand.

"Niver you mind, Thomas," she retorted sharply. She was a quiet little brown-eyed woman, neat as a pin, even her most formidable criticism acknowledged. "Niver you mind, Thomas; that's noddy to you."

"So ay. Nothin' to me, is it? Well, I shan't get too fat on that, shan't I? said he as he rose with a low chuckle, having caught his wife's meaning at intervals for the next five minutes, while he patteled his kine, rubbed the pigs, and slyly admiringly to his favorite pony Dally the sleek of bony legs, which had been sent away from the breakfast table for him.

He knew that his dinner was safe enough, and his little joke was therefore safe. Tom Tubbs loved his joke, and his invention had brought him no small pleasure; but to himself, his imagination, he could use his old jokes over again with perfect contentment and full enjoyment. Mrs. Tubbs went about the house with a sense of relief, rather than delighting in her husband's satisfaction as that bending her own mind to such frivolities.

"This evening, when I am home, she is going to provide what's to her husband, she will have his husband's favorite dinner to cook—dumplings and green peas, preceded by a hard dumpling, and followed by a soft dumpling, and a custard, and she had kept a lookout on the servant who, as Mrs. Tubbs would say, "if my eyes are to be shut, it's to have served the banquet to a lord. But Farmer Tubbs had not come home. He had gone down to the water-meadow, and had not returned."

When the intimation was brought to Mrs. Tubbs—who was a great disciplinarian, she pressed her lips a little tighter, and sent a sharp look at her husband, who slipped into the stockings; but she said nothing.

"That's all nonsense Thomas, and you know it. There ain't nothin' for you to hurt yourself agen don'l the water-lead."

"Ay, say; and how do you think it hap- pened then?" said he.

"Who?" he said. "Ay, who? You know I'm a lousy tryin' to make out some fine story or another. You won't have a man about a little thing. I hush myself a bit."

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"Who?" he said. "Ay, who? You know I'm a lousy tryin' to make out some fine story or another. You won't have a man about a little thing. I hush myself a bit."

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